

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 ACDA-19 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NASA-04 NSC-10 RSC-01 SCI-06 PA-04

PRS-01 USIA-15 SPC-03 INT-08 SS-20 AF-10 ARA-16 EA-11

EUR-25 NEA-10 CCO-00 OTPE-00 EB-11 FCC-03 OC-06

COME-00 OIC-04 IOE-00 DRC-01 /243 W

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P 271508Z FEB 74

FM USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2876

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 661

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: TSPA, PFOR, UN

SUBJECT: OSC: REMOTE SENSING WORKING GROUP, FEB 26

REF: USUN 638

1. MORNING SESSSION OPENED WITH PRESENTATION BY PROFES-
SOR MACLEOD, ERTS INVESTIGATOR AT AMERICAN UNIVERSITY,
ON USE OF REMOTE SENSING IN SAHEL, PARTICULARLY AS IT
RELATES TO POSSIBLE METHODS FOR RECOVERY OF REGION'S
RESOURCES. EMPHASIS OF PRESENTATION WAS ON
REGION-WIDE SCOPE OF INVESTIGATION. PRESENTATION WAS
WELL RECEIVED, AND CANADIANS, BRITISH AND SWEDES CITED
IT AS EXCELLENT EXAMPLE OF IMPORTANCE OF REGIONAL AP-
PROACH TO MANY REMOTE SENSING PROBLEMS.

2. SWEDES SAID THAT PRESENTATION WAS ESPECIALLY IN-
INTERESTING FROM LEGAL STANDPOINT IN VIEW OF ITS "EMINENTLY
REGIONAL" APPROACH. IT WAS KIND OF APPLICATION THAT
SHOULD NOT BE RESTRICTED BY LEGAL PRINCIPLES, SINCE
IT WAS OBVIOUSLY BENEFICIAL AND PEACEFUL IN CHARACTER;
AND UNRELATED TO NATURAL RESOURCES IN THE CONVENTIONAL
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SENSE OF THE TERM.

3. UK REPRESENTATIVE ASKED RHETORICALLY HOW BENEFICIAL USES SUCH AS THAT ILLUSTRATED IN SAHEL PRESENTATION COULD BE EXPLOITED IF BRAZILIAN TREATY PRINCIPLES WERE IN EFFECT.

4. BRAZILIAN REP CTITICIZED REFERENCE IN US DELEGATE'S SPEECH TO OUTER SPACE TREATY (REFTEL) PREVIOUS DAY AS "SELF-SERVING" AND SAID THERE WAS CLEAR NEED FOR COMPREHENSIVE LEGAL REGIME COVERING REMOTE SENSING FROM SPACE. HE SAID PROPER PLACE FOR DISCUSSION OF TEXT BRAZILIAN DRAFT TREATY WAS LEGAL SUBCOMMITTEE, BUT DID NOT OPPOSE DISCUSSIONS OF LEGAL CONCEPTS IN WGRS.

5. GERMAN DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC REP MADE BRIEF STATEMENT ALONG THE LINES OF AND GENERALLY SUPPORTING THE SOVIET POSITION MADE IN YESTERDAY'S SESSION (REFTEL).

6. JAPANESE REP DIRECTED HIS REMARKS MAINLY TO CHAIRMAN'S STATEMENT OF FEB 22 (REFTEL, PARA 1; STATEMENT POUCH DEPT FEB 26) AND QUESTIONED WHETHER WGRS HAD IN FACT ANY MANDATE TO DISCUSS "SPACE SEGMENT" IN ITS REPORT TO SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL SUBCOMMITTEE. HE NOTED THAT ONLY THREE OR FOUR STATES HAD BOTHERED TO DISCUSS QUESTION OF INTERNATIONAL CONTROL OVER "SPACE SEGMENT", SAID MOST STATES OBVIOUSLY WERE NOT PREPARED TO ADVANCE CONSIDERED VIEWS ON THE SUBJECT AND THOUGHT IT WOULD BE PRESUMPTUOUS FOR WGRS TO COME TO CONCLUSIONS. JAPANESE REP ALSO SAID ANY INTERNATIONAL CENTER THAT MIGHT BE CONSIDERED BY WGRS SHOULD BE LIMITED IN SCOPE TO INDEXING AND CATALOGUING.

7. CHAIRMAN THEN CIRCULATED OUTLINE FOR WGRS REPORT MAIN HEADINGS OF WHICH ARE AS FOLLOWS:

A. SYSTEMS FOR REMOTE SENSING OF THE EARTH BY SATELLITES.

B. ALTERNATIVES AND CONSTRAINTS IN THE COLLECTION OF REMOTE SENSING DATA OF THE EARTH BY SATELLITES (SPACE SEGMENTS).

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C. ALTERNATIVES AND CONSTRAINTS IN THE RECEPTION, DISTRIBUTION, STORAGE AND UTILIZATION OF REMOTE SENSING DATA OF THE EARTH BY SATELLITES (GROUND SEGMENT).

D. USERS RESPONSE TO THE UTILIZATION OF REMOTE SENSING DATA FROM SPACE.

E. LEGAL QUESTIONS ON REMOTE SENSING OF THE EARTH BY

SATELLITES.

F. THE ROLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS.

8. AFTERNOON DISCUSSIONS CENTERED ON PREPARATION OF REPORT'S LEGAL SECTION (PARA E ABOVE) AND MEANS OF DOCUMENTING LEGAL ISSUES. AT END OF LONG SESSION DRAFTING GROUP (USSR, US, INDIA, JAPAN, CANADA) MET TO PREPARE PAPER FOR WGRS CONSIDERATION ON FEB 27.

9. DURING COURSE OF AFTERNOON SESSION STRONG CONSENSUS FOR PROLONGING WGRS WAS BECOMING APPARENT, WITH USSR AMONG THOSE ADVOCATING IT.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SPACE AGREEMENTS, MONITORING FACILITIES, COMMITTEE MEETINGS, SATELLITES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 27 FEB 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974USUNN00661
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: USUN NEW YORK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974024/aaaaadwp.tel
Line Count: 129
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION IO
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: USUN 638
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 JUN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28 JUN 2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <02 JAN 2003 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: OSC: REMOTE SENSING WORKING GROUP, FEB 26
TAGS: TSPA, PFOR, UN
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005